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Belen Presbyterian Church
LABYRINTH PROJECT
3/10/03

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Belen Presbyterian Church
LABYRINTH PROJECT
3/10/03

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(No.20)

LABYRINTH PROJECT
Church members Vernon Nelson (left)
Tom Ponder (right)

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BNHC 3-1-16

Belen Presbyterian Church
LABYRINTH PROJECT
3/10/03

LABYRINTH PROJECT
Church member, Vernon Nelson

BHHC 3-1-16

LABYRINTH PROJECT
Church members Vernon Nelson (left)
Tom Ponder (right)

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LABYRINTH PROJECT
Church members Vernon Nelson (left)
Tom Ponder (right)

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(No. 9)

SANCTUARY
&
BELL TOWER

SANCTUARY
&
BELL TOWER

LABYRINTH PROJECT
Church members Vernon Nelson (left)
Tom Ponder (right)

Belen Federated Church

"The Church with the Lighted Spire Cross and Chimes"

FOURTH AND REINKEN STREETS
BELEN, NEW MEXICO

"OUR SERVICES ARE RECORDED FOR BENEFIT OF ABSENTEES AND SHUTINS"

H. E. LACY, PASTOR
P.O. BOX NO. 265

TELEPHONES
ANNEX AND OFFICE UN 4-4560 PASTOR'S HOME UN 4-8985

May 2, 1960

Mr. Hollis Wilson
City

Dear Mr. Wilson:

Our heartiest congratulations, prayers and best wishes to you, as you assume the honored office of Mayor to which the local citizens elected you. I know you will prove able in every-way in fulfilling the confidence placed in you by your friends. We shall be happy to assist and cooperate with you in any way we can.

Sincerely yours,

REV.H.E.LACY

Children's Day, Sunday June 15, 1930
Belen Federated Community Church

~~Belen Federated Church~~

~~Belen Federated Church~~

~~Now 1st United Presb. church~~

(8)

44979

Print #

G-38

Pic #

S.W.

Located at ~~Belen~~

Corner of Alma

Becker Park -

Across the street.

1911 Lutheran Church, Belen

Later called: Belen Federated

Later called: United Presbyterian

1996 Called: United Presbyterian

BELEN FEDERATED - COMMUNITY
BELEN, NEW MEXICO

Federated Church to Observe Anniversary

The Belen Federated Church is commemorating its fortieth anniversary next Sunday morning, July 29th.

The special service for the hour of 11 to 12 was arranged by the chairman of the Anniversary Committee, Mrs. Bess Campbell. Edwin Leupold will have the worship sections of the service. Fred Dils will lead the responsive readings.

Russell Dalies is in charge of the special recognition service for all charter members who are still in the membership.

The pastor, Howard E. Lacy, will read letters from former charter members now living elsewhere.

The featured talk of the service will be given by Mrs. Laura Becker using the title: "Reminiscences." The choir of the church is presenting two anthems: "Bless this House" and "House of the Lord." Tom Doty is the organist for the occasion.

A potluck dinner is being held in the Annex at noon following the service.

The general public is invited.

The Federated Church of Belen was organized on the last Sunday in July 1922. Prior to that time in 1894 the Evangelical Lutheran Church provided the bulk of the Protestants in Belen. Erecting the present church edifice on the corner of 4th and Reinken in 1910, the building being dedicated February 12, 1911. The parsonage was erected six years later.

As the population of Belen increased it was found that many denominations were becoming residents here; but in most cases not in sufficient number to properly support a church on their own. The feeling grew and a movement was started to unify these groups in a Community Federated Church. Hans Becker, an untiring church worker, was the leader in this movement, as were Paul Dalies and P. P. Simmons. Rev. J. A. McGaughey, pastor of a Community Church in Imperial, Calif., was brought to Belen, and spent four weeks here in July 1922, and succeeded in perfecting the organization. The unanimous cooperation of the Lutheran and Methodist churches, and smaller representations from nine other denominations are listed in the charter membership list. A few unusually successful years brought the number of denominations up to the number nineteen. Rev. John P. Sinclair, a Presbyterian minister, Aramos, Calif., was the first pastor. Then followed three Methodist pastors, the Rev. W. Grant Smith, Rev. Villars and Rev. D. A. Gregg. A Lutheran pastor, the Rev. Joseph Peterson, came in 1935 and remained until October 1943. A United Brethren pastor, the Rev. Th. C. Berlekamp, came in 1944 and served until 1948. The Methodist Church withdrew from the Federation in 1948 in October and constructed their own edifice later, after using the Community Center which belonged to them.

This required the remaining churches in the Federation to enlarge their space for the growing membership, as the Community Center owned by the Methodists could no longer be used for Sunday school and fellowship affairs.

Dr. V. A. Woodworth, completing his term with the Presbyterian Church in Albuquerque, accepted the Belen pastorate in April 1949. During his pastorate the present Annex was built. Rev. Chester Frantz, a Congregational minister, followed. Rev. C. E. Twigg, a Conservative Baptist minister, was next, and the present pastor, Howard E. Lacy, a Congregational - Christian minister, came to Belen to begin his pastorate in 1959 in the local church.

LETTERS

Presbyterians moving soon

Editor:

As the First Presbyterian Church of Belen concludes its decades in its current building, in this season of thanksgiving for god's gift of the Christ child, it gratefully acknowledges the help and guidance of God in the long journey to a new location and new opportunities for discipleship and ministry in its changing and growing community.

It celebrates with thanksgiving the dreams, work and gifts of many persons, from the initial encouragement and studies of the late Leonard Kirby, Linda Davey, Donn Thompson, Jean Maddox and Bob Farrell, the securing of an adequate site by the Valley Improvement Association, the work of the building council which has seen the project through from the beginning, Nelle Bischoff, Dale Alexander, Holly Wilson, David Baker, the late Bruce McBane, Ben Sanchez, June Pottinger, Dick Feldbush, and Ralph Kretzer, also Emily Young, ... and the many members and friends of the church who have contributed to the building fund over the years and the loan office of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Presbytery of Santa Fe for its support.

Thanks also to the various members of the building fund campaigns, our secretary-bookkeeper Grace Sanchez, our architect George Rainhart and the contractor Wilger Enterprises as well as many others.

The First Presbyterian Church of Belen will hold its last worship service in its historic 1911 sanctuary at Fourth and Reinken Streets at 10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 28. The congregation will hold its worship services temporarily in the Masonic building for about three months or so while its new facility on a 7.2-acre site at Manzano Expressway and Houston Boulevard in Rio Communities is under construction.

There will be a special celebration of the 86 years the building has served the church at the Dec. 28 service.

The building has been sold for a funeral home.

The congregation was first incorporated as Zion German Evangelical Lutheran Church in 1885. It is the oldest Protestant congregation in Valencia County and the second Protestant church to be organized here.

From 1922-1964, it functioned as a community church, the Federated Church, and entered the United Presbyterian Church in 1964. When it began, it was the first German language church in New Mexico and the first Lutheran Church in New Mexico, the members having come from the German state of Hanover.

The new building will be the third sanctuary in the history of the church. The 1911 sanctuary is a landmark in the city of Belen. It is the oldest Protestant building in Valencia County. The art glass windows and bell have been removed for use in the new facility. It is hoped that the congregation will be in its new facility by Holy Week in April.

News-Bulletin, Belen, New Mexico

Thursday, March 29, 1973

Presbyterian Church recipient of $60,000 from Becker estate

The First United Presbyterian church of Belen is the recipient of $60,000 from the estate of the late L.C. Becker, longtime member of the church.

Mr. Becker died in January, 1970. A local banker for more than a half century, Mr. Becker was a native of Belen and son of the late John Becker, pioneer city merchant.

Rev. J.D. Hatch, local pastor, said the $60,000 given the church was contained in a trust fund. The church was notified of the trust fund assignment in a letter from the First National Bank of Albuquerque, a co-administrator of the estate.

Belen Federated Church

BELEN, NEW MEXICO

"THE FRIENDLY CHURCH WITH THE TOWER CHIMES.
THAT RECORDS ITS SERVICES FOR THE
BENEFIT OF SHUTINS AND ABSENTEES."

REV. HOWARD E. LACY, *Pastor*

We welcome you to the worship in this friendly church. If you are a visitor, introduce yourself and sign the Guest Book. Pray for God's blessing upon this service, for those who minister, for those who worship here, for the Kingdom of Christ throughout the earth, for the shutins, absentees, and your personal concerns.

NTER TO WORSHIP *DEPART TO SERVE*

ated with the Community Churches of America.

In 1951 it was decided the increase in activities, church and Sunday School membership required larger quarters. So plans were initiated for the building of an annex to house Sunday school rooms, kitchen, dining and assembly room. This building was dedicated October 12, 1952. Many memorial gifts are noted in Art windows, tower chimes, and other equipment; all suitably inscribed with name of those remembered.

A nursery is maintained in the north-west room of the annex where parents can leave baby and small children with a competent adult during all church services.

AWARD FOR BEAUTY -- The Beautification Committee of the Belen Chamber of Commerce last week honored the First United Presbyterian Church at 4th and Reinken with its beautification award.

For Your Children's Sake...
Regular Sunday School attenders are seldom found in juvenile courts.
EARLY HABITS ©
ARE LASTING HABITS

FEDERATED C

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Mrs. Georg
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the progra
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SIGMA ETAS and CHI RHOS on July 2nd had
Frances Willbanks program on theme:"MAIM STRE
the theme:"LOST AND FOUND - ONESELF" was pres
July 16th sponsor Mrs. Zurbucken presented de
"HONESTLY NOW". July 23rd we were all in camp

FEDERAT
The youth

OUR AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

"I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. The third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body; and the Life Everlasting.

BRIEF HISTORY

In 1894 a group known as the Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized, services were occasional until the coming of the first resident pastor in 1909: The first edifice was erected during his pastorate, dedicated February 12, 1911. The parsonage was built six years later. Mr. John Becker donated the lots and 55% of building cost. In 1922 after much consultation among church groups, it was decided to organize the "Belen Federated Community Church," nine different denominations were represented in the membership, a few years later this had grown to nineteen denominations. All Christians are welcomed into our membership, if they are of the Protestant Evanglical faith. We are incorporated under laws of New Mexico as an interdenominational independent church. In 1959 we affiliated with the Community Churches of America.

In 1951 it was decided the increase in activities, church and Sunday School membership required larger quarters. So plans were initiated for the building of an annex to house Sunday school rooms, kitchen, dining and assembly room. This building was dedicated October 12, 1952. Many memorial gifts are noted in Art windows, tower chimes, and other equipment; all suitably inscribed with name of those remembered.

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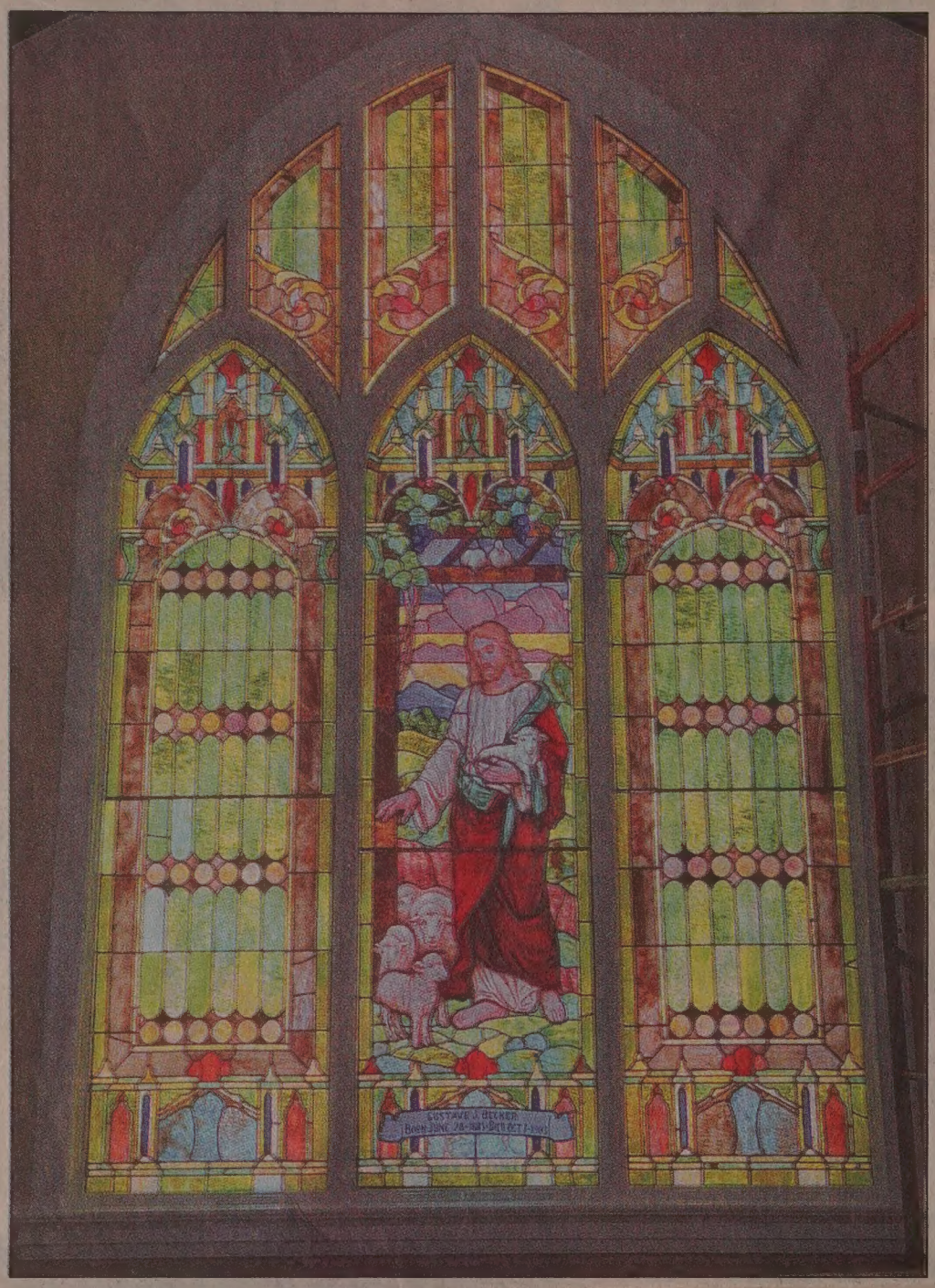
REMEMBER WHEN ...



FOOTBALL CLAIMS ITS FIRST VICTIM

Gustave Becker, Student at Lake Forest Academy, Dies from Injuries in Practice Game.

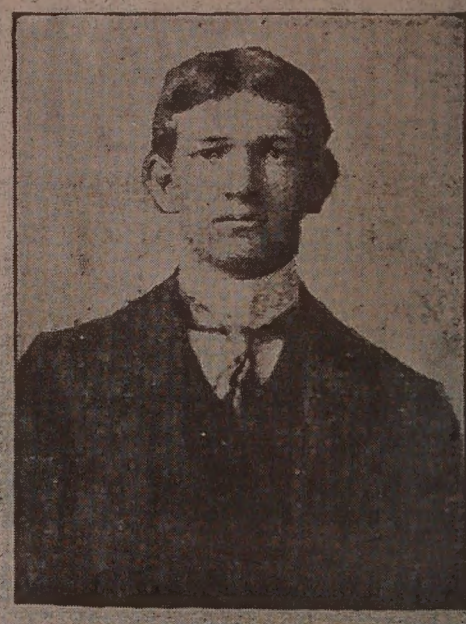
Football claimed its first death victim of the season yesterday when Gustave Becker, a student at Lake Forest academy, who was severely injured on the Lake Forest gridiron three weeks ago, died at the college hospital. Becker's death had been expected from the time it was discovered that his back had been broken in a scrimmage. A final operation, undertaken day before yesterday, in an effort to save his life, proved unsuccessful.

Young Becker lingered for three weeks after the accident on the football field, although the physicians gave him up some time ago. Following the operation which was performed day before yesterday the young student lapsed into unconsciousness, and died, without reviving, yesterday morning at 7 o'clock.

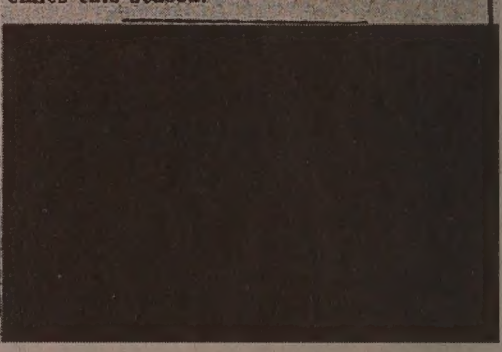
The injury which cost the young athlete his life and added another fatality to the list of football accidents, happened three weeks ago in a practice game between picked elevens of the Lake Forest academy. The players ran down the field after the ball had been kicked off, and piled up on top of the man who caught the ball. Young Becker was at the bottom of the pile, and when the rest of the players got up Becker did not rise. His back was broken. All the efforts of science proved ineffectual in warding off a fatal termination of the injury.

At his bedside when Becker died were his father and mother, a sister, and two of his brothers, the latter being students at the University of Wisconsin and the University of Michigan. Becker's home was in Delen, N. M., where his father is a prominent mine owner. The body will be taken tomorrow afternoon to New Mexico, where burial will take place.

The faculty of the Lake Forest academy yesterday passed resolutions of sympathy on the death of the young student and football player. The academy bootball team, for which Becker was a candidate when he was hurt, has not disbanded, but has decided not to play any regular games with other academies this season.



GUSTAVE BECKER.
Lake Forest student who is dead from injuries sustained on football field.



Photos courtesy of Jim Sloan

Stained-glass window reinstalled in the old Federated Church, which is now Noblin's Funeral Service, 2021. This large window was dedicated to John Becker's son, Gustave Becker, who was hurt playing football at Lake Forest Academy in Illinois.

Courtesy of the Valencia County Historical Society

Days gone by

Nov. 28, 1929

Thanksgiving Day finds this section with many reasons for gratitude for the bounties of Providence during the last year. We find that in this section there is prospect for continued prosperity for years. (The Great Depression began before the end of the year.)

Nov. 23, 1939

Chief Luciano Sanchez and the judge were called Sunday by one of Belen's citizens and told that there was a dead man lying in the weeds one mile north of the city. The judge told Sanchez to summon a jury and call a doctor and they all proceeded to examine the dead man. When the doctor started to examine the body of the would-be dead man lifted his head and started to curse them all.

Nov. 30, 1948

The Edward M. Otero mansion (now known as the Luna Mansion) in Los Lunas built in 1881 … is going to be turned into a rest home for old people or a tourist hotel.

Nov. 8, 1957

DANCE, Saturday, Nov. 9. Tabet's Hall. Music by Freddie Williams and his Keynotes. Admission: Men-$1, Ladies-50 cents. Parents accompanying daughters FREE and WELCOME.

Nov. 24, 1975

The Greater Los Lunas Association has been notified by Santa Fe Railroad officials that they will be awarded the bid on the Los Lunas train depot. The association plans to move the depot and turn the building into a community center. "We are investigating a half dozen sites along Main St.," association secretary Billie Goheen said.

(Readers interested in joining the Valencia County Historical Society should contact its president, Richard Melzer, at rmelzer@unm.edu)

BHCC-3-1-16

PRESBYTERIAN/ Federated